

**The Physiology of Alimentation.** By Dr. Martin H. Fischer, Professor of Pathology in the Oakland College of Medicine. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1907.

This volume of 322 pages has been written primarily for those who are interested in physiology as a science contributory to medicine. The important and fundamental researches of the past five years have been dealt with very satisfactorily. Special attention has been paid to Cannon's work on the movements of the digestive tract, to the theory of fermentation, especially its reversibility, to the structure and cleavage products of the proteid molecule, to the role of osmosis and other physical factors in absorption and secretion, and to the properties of secretin, enterokinase, and erepsin.

It is but natural that a work written largely from the standpoint of physiology should fail to take account of certain important observations made by clinicians. For example, the statement that bacteria make up 1.13 per cent by weight of the dried faeces has been shown to be erroneous; for Strasburger's method demonstrates that they make up from 10 to 30 per cent. It is also worthy of mention that Pawlow's observations on dogs have been confirmed on man by Bickel and others. In addition, Bickel has shown that the so-called appetite gastric juice, which is secreted during the chewing and swallowing of food, is due mainly to reflexes of taste and smell. Some unjustifiable statements are made concerning the effect of an acidity upon gastric digestion. Although the acidity of the gastric contents seems normally to furnish the stimulus that leads to the opening of the pylorus, it is not proper to assume that a lack of acid will cause a retention of food in the stomach. On the contrary, we know that patients with achylia gastrica often have little or no food in their stomachs after an ordinary test meal, owing apparently to increased motility. Similarly too great emphasis has been laid upon the action of hydrochloric acid as a preventive of gastric fermentation. An absence of acid may damage the body through allowing more bacteria and more undigested food to enter the intestines, but it does not cause gastric fermentation. The determining factor here is stasis; for fermentation occurs in either acid or anacid stomachs, provided they do not empty properly.

As a whole, the book is exceedingly interesting and can be heartily recommended to those physicians who desire a readable account of the recent contributions made by physiology and physiological chemistry to our knowledge of alimentation.

**Heart Disease and Blood Pressure.** By Louis Faugetes Bishop, A. M., M. D. Second edition. E. B. Treat & Co., New York, 1907.

This small volume of 120 pages attracts by its title, but unfortunately the text is disappointing. No blood-pressure measurements are recorded. The book is made up of a series of clinical impressions combined with more or less questionable theoretical considerations.

**The Sexual Instinct; Its Uses and Dangers as Affecting Heredity and Morals.** By James F. Scott, M. D. Second Edition. New York, E. B. Treat & Co., 1908. Price, \$2.00.

The author is eminently enthusiastic and it is unfortunate that this excess of enthusiasm leads him into paths of verbosity and tiresome reiteration of truths which, while perchance being almost axiomatic, are none the less very, very far from aiding in any practical solution of the "social evil." The enthusiasts of this sort may possibly effect results in the course of ten or twenty generations, but the

lack of practicality about their work makes the failure of immediate betterment a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, fathers, mothers, teachers, and particularly those having strong religious inclinations, will derive much profit and edification from the book.

**The Nervous System of Jesus.** By Salvarona, Associate of the American Institute of Scientific Research. Pennsylvania, Langhorne, Bucks County. Henry G. Walters, Publisher. 50 cents.

At first sight of this title the religious may be offended in anticipation of irreverent treatment of an exalted subject; the scientific may expect an incursion into the field of "pathography" in the manner of the late Professor Moebius. But the indignation of the former would be allayed, and the curiosity of the latter disappointed, by reading this publication. For it is a farrago of generally unintelligible prose and lamentable verse. The author has somehow possessed himself of some of the vocabulary and the data of psychology and physiology, and has employed them most incoherently. The very feebleness of the performance disarms criticism. We refrain from quoting from the book in support of this judgment, as we have no desire to hold its author up to ridicule.

#### DEATH OF DR. ARTHUR E. GRESHAM.

Dr. Arthur E. Gresham of Long Beach, Calif, died of pneumonia on Dec. 30th, 1907, at the age of 42 years. He was born of English parents in Granada, West Indies. When 15 years of age he went to England to receive his education at Dulworth College, West London, and later his medical training in Dr. Bartholemew's College Hospital (University of London). He came to the U. S. in 1884 in company with his brother, the late Dr. Frederic C. Gresham of Sierra Madre, Calif., and entered Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, from which he graduated in 1885. He began practice in Los Angeles soon after, and for five years met with merited success, but his health then failed and a year later he re-entered practice at Sierra Madre as successor to his brother, who had died there, where for 12 years he was much sought after as a physician and surgeon and greatly beloved by the people. He removed to Long Beach in February, 1906, where he had become well established at the time of his death and held the respect of the public and the medical profession. He leaves a wife, one son and one daughter. His body was cremated at Los Angeles.

#### REGISTER CHANGES—

Those members who desire to keep their Registers corrected up to date should check this list carefully. In the following will be found all the official changes (in California) received from the 15th to the 15th.

Alexander, E. W., from 1296 Ninth ave., San Francisco, to Europe.

Austin, M. O., from 2534 Mission st., to Anglo Bldg., Sixteenth and Mission sts., San Francisco.

Berger, A., from 2325 Lombard st., to 951 Guerrero st., San Francisco.

Boone, Reunette E., from Sebastopol to Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co.

Bruguiere, P. S., from Reno, Nev., to Montgomery and Commercial sts., San Francisco.

Byron, A. E., from Sonoma, Sonoma Co., to Point Richmond, Contra Costa Co.

Carey, Henry B., from Affiliated Colleges to 1296A Ninth ave., San Francisco.